

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated February 17, 2004, claims 1-22 are noted as pending. Claims 1-5 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirairi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,480,942 (Hirairi). Claims 7-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirairi.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-5 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirairi. However, Hirairi does not disclose "a programmable event conditioning logic unit to receive a queue enter signal, a queue exit signal, and a queue not empty signal from the queue" as claimed in claim 1. These signals are delivered from the queue to the programmable event conditioning logic unit. Further, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations "the queue enter signal to be asserted in response to an entry entering the queue, the queue exit signal to be asserted in response to an entry exiting the queue, and the queue not empty signal to indicate that the queue contains at least one entry" which are also not disclosed by Hirairi. For these reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated by Hirairi. Independent claims 7, 14, and 20 include similar limitations to those described above in connection with claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-22 are also not anticipated by Hirairi.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

Because Hirairi teaches away from a queue providing queue enter, exit, and not empty signals to a programmable event conditioning logic unit (as described above), claims 1-22 are patentable over Hirairi.

**CONCLUSION:**

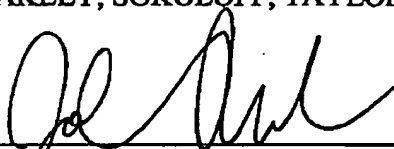
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-22 are distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-22 is respectfully requested.

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION**

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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